

CLAIMS

5 10 Sub a1 1. A test kit for determining qualitatively or quantitatively the presence of one or more analytes in a fluid sample, comprising an assay device for sampling and assaying said fluid together with a reading device which engages with said assay device and wherein precisely located engagement of said assay device with said reading device is essential for accurate reading of the assay result, wherein precisely located engagement of said assay device with said reading device causes a 'lock-and-key' interaction between said assay device and reading initiation means of said reading device.

15 20 2. A test kit according to claim 1, wherein said assay device is of the type consisting essentially of a porous carrier strip or the like within a hollow casing and wherein an assay result is revealed by specific binding of a labelled reagent within a detection zone of said carrier strip, the presence of the labelled reagent within said detection zone being discernable by said reading device.

25 30 3. A test kit according to claim 1 wherein said reading device includes receiving means for receiving said assay device, and said reading initiation means comprises switch actuating means or the like which is displaceable upon receipt of said assay device within said receiving means, wherein correct receipt of said assay device causes a contact portion of said casing to contact said displaceable switch actuating means, the contact portion and the displaceable switch actuating means being cooperatively engageable via a 'lock-and-key' engagement such that only upon correct receipt of said assay device can said switch actuating means be displaced to initiate reading.

35 4. A test kit according to claim 3, wherein said switch actuating means comprises at least one fixed projecting



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insertion of said assay device ~~into~~ the receiving means.

10. A test kit according to claim 9, wherein there is a second projecting lip portion at or near the other end of said slot to retain said inserted assay device in said receiving means.

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